

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION BERLIN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 221887

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GE, UR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ALLIED INTERVENTION ON GDR EXCHANGE
REQUIREMENTS

REF: (A) BONN 16218 (B) BERLIN 1934 (C) BERLIN 1929 (D)

BERLIN 1914 (E) BERLIN 1930

1. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT ANY FORMAL OR INFORMAL ALLIED
DEMARCHE TO SOVIETS ON GDR DOUBLING OF MANDATORY CURRENCY
REQUIREMENTS IS INADVISABLE. WE SHARE VIEW THAT QA LEGAL
ARGUMENT IS SOMEWHAT STRAINED. MOREOVER, IF FBIS ACCOUNTS
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OF NOVEMBER BAHR-KOHL TALKS ARE ACCURATE, BAHR HAS PULLED

RUG OUT FROM UNDER POSSIBLE ALLIED DEMARCHE BY HIS RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH KOHL, AND HIS FLAT STATEMENT THAT "LAYING DOWN OF CONDITIONS FOR VISITS AND MINIMUM EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS CAME WITHIN COMPETENCE OF GDR."

2. MOST APPROPRIATE AND EFFECTIVE CHANNELS AVAILABLE, PARTICULARLY IN CONNECTION WITH HARDSHIPS IMPOSED ON PENSIONERS, ARE THOSE WHICH EXIST BETWEEN SENAT AND EAST GERMANS AND BETWEEN FRG AND GDR. ALLIED INTERVENTION ON GROUNDS GDR ACTIONS CONSTITUTE VIOLATION OF QA COULD EVEN MAKE PRAGMATIC RESOLUTION OF MATTER IN INNER-GERMAN CHANNELS MORE DIFFICULT.

3. AT SAME TIME, DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF GDR ACTION ON WEST BERLIN AND BELIEVES IT NECESSARY THAT ALLIES SHOW SUPPORT FOR GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ AND SENAT ON THIS AND OTHER ISSUES IN WHICH RECENT ATTACKS HAVE BEEN MADE BY GDR. BEST APPROACH WOULD BE TO PUT ALLIED VIEWS IN SUPPORT OF SCHUETZ AND SENAT ON RECORD BY APPROPRIATE ALLIED RESPONSE TO PRESS QUESTION (SOLICITED IF NECESSARY) OR BY APPROPRIATELY WORDED PRESS RELEASE. TEXT OF SUCH A RESPONSE OR RELEASE MIGHT START BY CONDEMNING EAST GERMAN MOVES AS CONTRARY TO SPIRIT OF DETENTE MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE GERMANS TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH ONE ANOTHER AND PUTTING AN ESPECIALLY HEAVY BURDEN ON ELDERLY AND POOR. STATEMENT MIGHT ALSO REJECT GDR ALLEGATION THAT RECENT EFFORTS IN BERLIN BY SENAT WOULD STRENGTHEN TIES TO THE FRG ARE CONTRARY TO Q&A, COUPLED WITH WORDS OF PRAISE FOR LEADERSHIP OF GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ. SUGGEST MISSION DRAFT APPROPRIATE TEXT ALONG FOREGOING OR SIMILAR LINES FOR DEPARTMENT CLEARANCE. IN ADDITION WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO ALLIES INDIVIDUALLY MAKING THEIR DISSATISFACTION WITH LATEST GDR MOVE INFORMALLY KNOWN TO SOVIETS AT SOCIAL OR OTHER CHANCE MEETINGS. RUSH

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